AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE, AND LISTING OF ALL CLAIMS WITH PROPER IDENTIFIERS

1. (Currently amended) ~~Squirrel-cage~~ A squirrel-cage rotor [[(1)]], comprising:

squirrel-cage rotor conductors [[(3)]];

a cage ring for shorting the squirrel-cage rotor conductor; and

a carrier [[(5)]] for support of the squirrel-cage rotor conductors [[(3)]], ~~with~~ the carrier [[(5)]] being provided with axial slots [[(9)]] for accommodating the squirrel-cage rotor conductors [[(3)]], ~~characterized in that an~~ wherein at least one of the axial [[slot (9) having]] slots has at least one closed slot portion [[(11)]] and an open slot portion [[(13)]], with the open slot portion [[(13)]] located between the closed slot portion [[(11)]] and [[a]] the cage ring [[(15)]], and with the open slot portion having an opening which is located in a radially outer region of the at least one axial slot.

2. (Canceled).

3. (Currently amended) ~~Squirrel-cage~~ The squirrel-cage rotor ~~(1) according to~~ claim 1 ~~or 2~~ of claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the open slot portion [[(13)]] has an opening which is located in ~~the~~ a radially inner region [[(19)]] of the at least one axial slot [[(9)]].

4. (Currently amended) ~~Squirrel-cage~~ The squirrel-cage rotor ~~(1) according to one of the claims 1 to 3~~ of claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the at least one axial slot [[(9)]] has a wedge-shaped ~~or parallel-shaped~~ cross section.

5. (Currently amended) ~~Squirrel-cage~~ The squirrel-cage rotor ~~(1) according to one of the claims 1 to 4~~ of claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein each of the squirrel-cage rotor [[conductor (3)]] conductors is a cast squirrel-cage rotor conductor [[(3)]].

6. (Currently amended) ~~Squirrel-cage~~ The squirrel-cage rotor ~~(1) according to one of the claims 1 to 4~~ of claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein each of the squirrel-cage rotor [[conductor (3)]] conductors is a bar conductor [[(27)]].

7. (Currently amended) ~~Squirrel-cage~~ The squirrel-cage rotor ~~(1) according to one of the claims 1 to 6~~ of claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the carrier [[(5)]] is disposed immediately adjacent to the cage ring.

8. (Currently amended) ~~Squirrel-cage~~ The squirrel-cage rotor ~~(1) according to one of the claims 1 to 8~~ of claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the carrier [[(5)]] includes soft-magnetic material.

9.-10. (Canceled)

11. (Currently amended) ~~Method according to~~ The method of claim [[10]] 15, ~~characterized in that material of the carrier (5) as well as also~~ wherein the removing step includes the step of trimming away material of the squirrel-cage rotor [[conductor (3) is removed]] conductors.

12. (Currently amended) ~~Method according to one of the claims 10 to 11~~ The method of claim 16, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the casting step includes the step of casting cage rings [[(15) are cast]] jointly with the ~~casting of~~ the squirrel-cage rotor conductors [[(3)]].

13. (Canceled)

14. (New) The squirrel-cage rotor of claim 1, wherein the at least one axial slot has a parallel-shaped cross section.

15. (New) A method of making a squirrel-cage rotor, comprising the steps of:

accommodating a squirrel-cage rotor conductor in a closed axial slot of a carrier; and

removing material from the carrier in the area of an end surface of the carrier to form an open slot portion with an opening which is located in a radially outer region of the axial slot.

16. (New) The method of claim 15, wherein the accommodating step includes the step of casting the squirrel-cage rotor conductors in the closed slots of the carrier.

17. (New) The method of claim 15, wherein the accommodating step includes the step of inserting the squirrel-cage rotor conductors in the form of bars in the closed slots of the carrier.

18. (New) A method of making a squirrel-cage rotor, comprising the steps of:

accommodating a plurality of squirrel-cage rotor conductors in closed axial slots of a carrier;

shorting the squirrel-cage rotor conductors by a cage ring; and

removing material from the carrier in the area of an end surface of the carrier such as to provide at least one of the closed axial slots with an open slot portion with an opening which is located in a radially outer region of the axial slot.

19. (New) The method of claim 18, wherein the squirrel-cage rotor conductors are each a bar conductor.

20. (New) The method of claim 18, and further comprising the step of placing the carrier immediately adjacent to the cage ring.

21. (New) The method of claim 18, and further comprising the step of making the carrier of soft-magnetic material.

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS WITHOUT MARKINGS

IN THE DRAWING:

Fig. 1 has been amended.